

## CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

<b>Project Name:</b>	Snow Fence
<b>Proposed Implementation Date:</b>	November 2011
<b>Proponent:</b>	Madison County
<b>Location:</b>	T1S R3W Sect.21, T1S R3W Sect. 28, and T3S R1W Sect. 36
<b>County:</b>	Madison
<b>Trust:</b>	Common Schools

### I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

Install two 500 foot section of snow fence on Bradley Creek Road and one 300 foot section of snow fence on South Boulder Road to reduce drifting, enhance year round drivability of the roads and help reduce county maintenance.

### II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

#### 1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED:

*Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.*

Trent & Barbara Biggers, lessee – Contacted Barbara on 11/18/11, she said she would check and get back. Barbara called back on 11/25/11, and stated the only concern would be creating additional fence lines. They would prefer snow fences be placed by existing fences.

Byram & Leslie Owens, lessee – Attempted to contact the Owens' on 11/18/11 and 11/25/11. There was no answer and no voicemail.

#### 2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:

None

#### 3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Action: Grant the Land Use Licenses to install two 500 foot sections of snow fence on Bradley Creek Road and one 300 foot section of snow fence on South Boulder Road.

No Action: Do not grant the Land Use Licenses to install two 500 foot sections of snow fence on Bradley Creek Road and one 300 foot section of snow fence on South Boulder Road.

### III. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- *RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.*
- *Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.*
- *Enter "NONE" If no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.*

#### 4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE:

*Consider the presence of fragile, compactable or unstable soils. Identify unusual geologic features. Specify any special reclamation considerations. Identify any cumulative impacts to soils.*

Both areas are Ag/Grazing lands. The snow fences are in close proximity to the roads, increased snow retention will result in a localized increase in soil moisture content in the early spring. No cumulative impacts would be expected.

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**5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION:**

*Identify important surface or groundwater resources. Consider the potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality. Identify cumulative effects to water resources.*

Snow will pile up at the fences, which may cause the snow to take longer to melt in the spring. No cumulative effects would be expected.

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**6. AIR QUALITY:**

*What pollutants or particulate would be produced? Identify air quality regulations or zones (e.g. Class I air shed) the project would influence. Identify cumulative effects to air quality.*

No effect to air quality.

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**7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:**

*What changes would the action cause to vegetative communities? Consider rare plants or cover types that would be affected. Identify cumulative effects to vegetation.*

The snow may take longer to melt in the spring, which would provide moisture for vegetation. No cumulative effects would be expected.

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**8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:**

*Consider substantial habitat values and use of the area by wildlife, birds or fish. Identify cumulative effects to fish and wildlife.*

No cumulative effects would be expected.

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**9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:**

*Consider any federally listed threatened or endangered species or habitat identified in the project area. Determine effects to wetlands. Consider Sensitive Species or Species of special concern. Identify cumulative effects to these species and their habitat.*

Due to the limited scope of the project, no cumulative effects would be expected.

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**10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:**

*Identify and determine effects to historical, archaeological or paleontological resources.*

Township 3S Range 1W Section 36 has two recorded sites of Lithic Scatter, which will not be disturbed. If other cultural site are found they will not be disturbed, but reported and documented.

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**11. AESTHETICS:**

*Determine if the project is located on a prominent topographic feature, or may be visible from populated or scenic areas. What level of noise, light or visual change would be produced? Identify cumulative effects to aesthetics.*

The snow fence would be visible while driving past on the road and a large pile of snow may accumulate.

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**12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY:**

*Determine the amount of limited resources the project would require. Identify other activities nearby that the project would affect. Identify cumulative effects to environmental resources.*

No cumulative effects would be expected.

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**13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA:**

*List other studies, plans or projects on this tract. Determine cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of current private, state or federal actions in the analysis area, and from future proposed state actions in the analysis area that are under MEPA review (scoped) or permitting review by any state agency.*

None.

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IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.</i></li><li>• <i>Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.</i></li><li>• <i>Enter "NONE" If no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.</i></li></ul>

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**14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:**

*Identify any health and safety risks posed by the project.*

The snow fences will help reduce the amount of snow that drifts onto the road, helping to maintain access and egress during snow events. In order for a snow fence to be effective, it must be placed perpendicular to the wind and be placed at least 30 times its height away from the resource being protected.

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**15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:**

*Identify how the project would add to or alter these activities.*

None.

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**16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT:**

*Estimate the number of jobs the project would create, move or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to the employment market.*

None.

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**17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES:**

*Estimate tax revenue the project would create or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to taxes and revenue.*

None.

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**18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES:**

*Estimate increases in traffic and changes to traffic patterns. What changes would be needed to fire protection, police, schools, etc.? Identify cumulative effects of this and other projects on government services*

None.

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**19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS:**

*List State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, and other zoning or management plans, and identify how they would affect this project.*

None.

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**20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES:**

*Identify any wilderness or recreational areas nearby or access routes through this tract. Determine the effects of the project on recreational potential within the tract. Identify cumulative effects to recreational and wilderness activities.*

No effect.

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**21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING:**

*Estimate population changes and additional housing the project would require. Identify cumulative effects to population and housing.*

None.

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**22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:**

*Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.*

None.

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**23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:**

*How would the action affect any unique quality of the area?*

No affect.

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**24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:**

*Estimate the return to the trust. Include appropriate economic analysis. Identify potential future uses for the analysis area other than existing management. Identify cumulative economic and social effects likely to occur as a result of the proposed action.*

If granted, two Land Use Licenses would be created and they would each bring \$150.00 to the trust.

<b>EA Checklist Prepared By:</b>	<b>Name:</b> Katie Svoboda /s/	<b>Date:</b> 11/30/11
	<b>Title:</b> Office Manager	

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**V. FINDING**

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**25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:** Action: Grant the Land Use Licenses to install two 500 foot sections of snow fence on Bradley Creek Road and one 300 foot section of snow fence on South Boulder Road.

**26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:** No impacts of significance would be expected from this action alternative.

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**27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:**☐

EIS

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More Detailed EA

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No Further Analysis

<b>EA Checklist Approved By:</b>	<b>Name:</b> Craig Campbell
	<b>Title:</b> Bozeman Unit Manager
<b>Signature:</b> Craig Campbell /s/	<b>Date:</b> 11/30/2011